

Supplementary Notes on *Acorus* and *Arabis*

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In TORREYA for December, 1936, I discussed the question of whether *Acorus Calamus* was native in the United States or not, and expressed considerable skepticism, on account of the species being obviously planted or escaped in many places, and being known also in Europe and Asia. That article brought me more letters than anything else I ever wrote for a botanical magazine, most of them giving information about additional localities for the species in question, which I hope to incorporate in some future publication. One of my correspondents also called my attention to the embarrassing fact that Murray F. Buell had published a short paper on the same subject in *Rhodora* for October, 1935, which I had been wholly unaware of, on account of not getting that magazine for several years past. Mr. Buell concluded that *Acorus* is native in North America, at least near the middle of the continent, "though the records . . . have become much blurred by human interference."

Charles C. Deam, in his splendid *Flora of Indiana*, 1940 (map on page 271, text on page 277, particularly under *Spathyema*), says that *Acorus* is widely distributed in that state, flowering and fruiting throughout, but prefers sunny places, never associating with *Spathyema*. This would seem to indicate that it was not common in prehistoric times, when most of the state was presumably covered with forest.

On a visit to New York in June, 1940, for the first time since 1932, I saw for the first time Milton Hopkins's monographic study of *Arabis* in eastern and central North America, in *Rhodora* for March, April and May, 1937. It seems to be as good a piece of work as could be done with existing herbarium specimens; but some additional references to literature on my *A. Georgiana* would have made the story more complete, and rendered superfluous his comment on the poor condition of one of my specimens, collected in midwinter.

Mr. Hopkins dug up some old specimens of *A. Georgiana* that I had not seen, collected long before my time, in Georgia and Alabama, by Chapman, Boykin and Mohr, none of whom recognized it as undescribed. (Dr. Mohr's specimen from Pratt's Ferry,

Alabama, is probably what he referred to *A. patens* in his Plant Life of Alabama, 1901.) Hopkins's distribution map for that species shows three stations in Georgia and two in Alabama, but omits the type-locality, on the state line.

As stated in the original description (TORREYA, 3: 87-88. June, 1903), I first found the plant on the bank of the Chattahoochee River in Stewart County, Georgia, July 18, 1901, in fruit. The seeds, or some of them, were ripe enough to germinate, and some planted at the New York Botanical Garden produced plants which bloomed in April, 1903, enabling me to describe the species.

On December 30, 1903, I found what was evidently the same species on the Oostanaula River in Gordon County, northwestern Georgia. It was of course all dead at the time, but I took a few specimens (one of which was cited by Mr. Hopkins), and reported the occurrence in TORREYA, 4: 24-25. February, 1904.

The next development was finding it on the Coosa River in Elmore County, Alabama, December 9, 1905. I revisited the spot on April 24, 1906, and found it in bloom, and reported it in the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club a few months later (33: 532. 1906). I have not met with the plant in the succeeding 34 years, which suggests that it must be rather rare. But with about six stations on record, in two states, it could probably be found in similar habitats elsewhere if one looked for it. It would be most conspicuous at flowering time, but its best distinguishing characters are in the fruit.

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